

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03819 231453 Z

72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 268

INFO USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 3819

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV PINT BL

SUBJ: FSB INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE INTENSIFIES

REF: LA PAZ 3651, 3604

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF THE FSB BETWEEN PARTY CHIEF MARIO GUTIERREZ AND CARLOS VALVERDE ENTERED A DRAMATIC NEW PHASE JUNE 21 WHEN VALVERDE PROCLAIMED HIMSELF " SOLE LEADER" OF THE FALANGE. DURING THE PREVIOUS EVENING, THE COURT OF HONOR OF THE FSB HAD FORMALLY EXPELLED VALVERDE FROM THE PARTY FOR HIS " DIVISIVE ACTIONS" OF RECENT WEEKS.

2. IN ANNOUNCING THIS LATEST MOVE IN HIS ONGOING LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WITH GUTIERREZ, VALVERDE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WILL ASK PRESIDENT BANZER TO RECOGNIZE HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE FSB, IN ORDER THAT VALVERDE HIMSELF AND HIS FOLLOWERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, HE ANNOUNCED THE CONVOCAION OF AN FSB PARTY CONVENTION IN JULY FOR THE PURPOSE OF " REORGANIZING THE FALANGISTA RANKS THROUGH- OUT THE REPUBLIC". NOTE: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE REGUAHR
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03819 231453 Z

CONVENTION OF THE FSB IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. IN CONVERSATION WITH FSB
YOUTH CHIEF MAURO CUELLAR JUNE 20, EMBOFFS WERE INFORMED THAT
GUTIERREZ IS CONTEMPLATING RESIGNATION FROM POSITION AS
FONMINISTER TO DEVOTE HIMSELF FULL TIME TO PARTY ISSUES.
BEFORE VALVERDE BOMBSHELL YESTERDAY, GUTIERREZ REPORTEDLY
ALSO PLANNING TO RESIGN AS PARTY CHIEF UNTIL AUGUST CONVENTION,--
WHICH HIS FORCES WOULD CONTROL-- NAMED NEW FSB LEADER;
VALVERDE, HOWEVER, HAS NEATLY AVOIDED THIS SCENARIO,
WHICH GUTIERREZ SUCCESSFULLY PLAYED OUT LAST FEBRUARY,
BY CALLING HIS OWN PARTY CONVENTION AT AN EARLIER DATE.

4. NONETHELESS, THE DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH GUTIERREZ
WHICH VALVERDE HAS NOW PRECIPITATED COULD LEAD TO A MORE
PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNAL FSB DISPUTE THAN WOULD
OTHERWISE HAVE OCCURRED. THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION IN WHICH
THE FSB NOW FINDS ITSELF, AS A PARTY WITH TWO "SOLE LEADERS",
SEEMS LIKELY TO END IN EITHER A FORMAL SPLIT OF THE PARTY OR
THE RESIGNATION OF ONE OF THE TWO PARTY CHIEFS. RISING
CONCERN ON THE PART OF BOTH THE MNR AND THE MILITARY OVER
THE IMPACT WHICH THE FSB STRUGGLE IS HAVING ON THE FPN
COALITION GOVERNMENT COULD PROMOTE A MORE RAPID RESOLUTION OF
THE ISSUE. SHOULD PRESIDENT BANZER HIMSELF BE CALLED UPON
TO INTERJECT HIMSELF INTO THIS INCREASINGLY SERIOUS DISPUTE
WITHIN FPN RANKS, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT HE WOULD
PROBABLY FAVOR GUTIERREZ WHO WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE HAS
THE GREATER FOLLOWING AND MORE PRESTIGE IN THE PARTY,
OVER HIS MORE IMPETUOUS AND UNSTABLE RIVAL. END LIMITED
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SIRACUSA

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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